THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The cond High level ODA Mission on conomic and Technological Cooperation am Japan held talks with officials in the Ministry of Finance on 28.3.95, during which, in accordance with Japanese ODA policy since 1992, the Japanese side (erred to certain non-economic factors an-proliferation of nuclear weapons and issile delivery systems and trends in refence expenditure.

(c) The Japanese delegation was iefed about India's commitment to non-oliferation and disarmament. They ere informed that our defence penditpre as a percentage of GDP was he of the lowest in the region. It was minted out that these issues are scussed regularly in Foreign Office sulfations

oast Guard to Combat Environmental disasters

4706. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR IRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be leaded to state:

(a) whether the Coast Guard propose i enhance surveillance for combating nvironmental disasters;

(b) if so, the details of the plans nvisaged by Coast Guard;

(c) whether the Coast Guard is facing inancial constrain to effectively mplement their plans; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE 4IN1STRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI 4ALLIKARJUN):(a) to (d) A National contingency plan to enhance surveillance for combating environmental disaster by 3oast Guard (CG) has been drawn up. This envisages:

(i) Maritime reconnaissance by CG fixed wing aircraft fitted out with requisite sensors.

(ii) Random surveillance by available CG ships for detection of oil spills.

(iii) Formation of Crisis Management Groups at three level* to coordinate actions of a large number of inter-Ministerial agencies with a view to assess and combat oil pollution disasters in the Maritime Zones of India.

(iv) Formation of highly trained task fore (three response teams based at Bombay, Madras and Port Blair) to assist and combat oil pollution at sea.

(v) Acquisition of dedicated pollution control equipment and pollution response vessels to combat oil pollution.

Government endeavours to provide all assistance to the Coast Guard which is commensurate with the task assigned and subject to the availability of funds.

Production of Prithvi Missiles

4707. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Prithvi missiles is being slowed down; and

(b) if so$_a$ the reasons for capping of the production of missiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The users* trials of 'Prithvi', surface-to-surface tactical battle field missile have been completed. Subsequent activities are being progressed.

Setters written by M.Pt

4708. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *ALIAS* MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry of Defence during the period